Women trafficking across Nepal and Bangladesh

877. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 20,000 to 25,000 women are trafficked every year across Nepal and Bangladesh borders;

(b) if so, how long this problem would subsist and whether it is on the increase or decrease;

(c) the measures taken to curb and control this problem; and

(d) whether the measures taken are adequate and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There is no accurate data available on cross border trafficking. However, as per the Action Research on Trafficking in Women and Children Study of National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with UNIFEM and the Institute of Social Sciences released in 2004, it is estimated that about 5,000 to 10,000 girls are being annually trafficked from Nepal and Bangladesh into India.

(c) and (d) As per information received from Ministry of Home Affairs "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects, and the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention and combating of crime of human trafficking. However, the Union Government is taking several measures, in concert with the State Government's for prevention and control of crime of trafficking as well as measures for rehabilitation of victims. The Union Government has advised all the State Governments to deal with the crime of trafficking in a holistic manner.

Projects for women and child upliftment in the North Eastern Region

878. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the dedicated projects for women and child upliftment in the North-Eastern Region in general and Assam in particular;

(b) the names of the projects and progress in this regard; and

(c) whether any step has been taken to control harassment of women and abuse of girl child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A number of projects for women and child upliftment in North Eastern Region including Assam are being implemented under various schemes of this Ministry. The scheme-wise details of the projects are available in the Annual Reports as well as on the *web site www:wcd.nic.in* of the Ministry.

(c) Legal provisions have been enacted to check harassment of women include section 498A of IPC (cruelty by husband or his relative) and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, which has come into force from 26.10.2006. The Ministry has already taken step on abuse of girl child by formulating a comprehensive scheme on trafficking.